THE CROSBY VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY
Issue No.10 August 1979

HELLO AGAIN,

Here we are with our third newsletter for 1979.

With this newsletter, you'll notice a number of obvious improvements in our presentation - especially in the area of printing. We have changed from Xerox duplicating of our pages to a far more superior 'offset' process. I would like to start by thanking our Vice President, Ken Orren, who virtually single-handed has tackled the business of duplicating the newsletter for the past two years. Ken has done a marvellous job and has earned our everlasting gratitude.

Starting with this issue, Bill Weeden Jnr of the Sinatra Society of Australia will be handling the printing of the newsletter and I would also like to thank Bill for the enormous help that he has given me in explaining the ins and outs of the new printing process. It's a lot more complex that we are used to, but I think you'll agree that the results are well worth the effort.

Since we are giving the newsletter a whole new look, we thought we might as well go all the way and give it a new name as well! "The Victorian Bing Crosby Society Newsletter" was a bit of a mouthful to say. I think that the new name is an improvement. Anyway, I'd be interested to hear your comments.

Also with this issue, we will introduce a numbering system as well to help those people who actually keep these things to keep them in correct order. These numbers are being made retrospective to the first issue.

One of the big advantages of our new offset printing is that it allows much better reproduction of photographs as you will have noticed from our cover. That photograph, incidentally, comes from 1932 and features Bing and Eddie Lang. It was taken about the time of the filming of Bing's first movie "The Big Broadcast". Our copy comes from a fan magazine of the time called "Photoplay" and later in this issue, we will begin serializing the accompanying article.

FUTURE FUNCTIONS

AUGUST 6TH - MUSIC EVENING - MOBIL CENTRE - 7.30 PM

Our next scheduled music evening will be Monday August 6th at our now standard venue, the Mobil Centre theatrette, 2 City Road, South Melbourne.

Once again, several members will present their taped selections featuring Crosby material of interest and there will also be another music quiz with the prize of a Crosby LP for the successful entrant.

We will also be raffling another double pass for our September Dinner Dance, details of which follow.

SATURDAY SEPT. 9TH - OUR SECOND ANNUAL DINNER DANCE.

Following the great success of last year's dinner dance we have decided to make the occasion an annual event. This year, you will be happy to see that we have been able to book the hall for a Saturday night. Much more convenient for all of us. Now for the bad news. Due to inflation (you've heard of that no doubt), we have been forced to greatly increase the cost of tickets. Last year we made a loss on the evening. This year, we hope to just come out in the black, but that's all!

The good news is that everything (including all drinks) will be included in the cost.

VENUE: Golden Sands Reception ROOms, 399 Blackburn Rd, East Burwood.

TIME: 7.30 pm - 12.30 Pm.

COST: (OUCH) $34.00 a double (members)
$38.00 a double (non-members)

(Single tickets are also available for half the above prices.)

Despite the high cost, it's a great evening. Ask anyone who went along last year.

This cost includes: Pre-dinner sherries
Hot savories
4 course dinner
And all drinks, your choice

Music: A live band will be on hand all evening to supply the music for dancing and listening - Crosby songs and other music of the period.

(By the way, can any member loan us sheet music of any of Bing's songs?)

Dress: Ladies - formal
Men - lounge suit

In addition there will be raffles for various items during the course of the evening including another magnificent fruit cake prepared and donated by Thelma Wood's sister (and I don't mean Betty Orren).

BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW! BOOK NOW!

How to book:

Ring Thelma Wood, the President of our Social Committee on 95 9846
Or write to Thelma at 47 Wingrove Street, Cheltenham 3192, enclosing half the cost of your booking as deposit.

CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS - AUGUST 20TH

(Please make all cheques payable to "The Victorian Bing Crosby Society Social Committee".)

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MONDAY - OCTOBER 1ST - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
You'll receive another note about this before the event. Please try to attend. We may screen a couple of short films as added incentive to attend. Details later.

SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 18TH - BARBECUE
Ken Orren has generously offered to donate his rolling Healsville estate for another barbecue to round out our year's functions. Once again, more details later.

REPORT ON PAST FUNCTIONS

MONDAY - MAY 21ST - "KING OF JAZZ"

In the third week of May, we ran one last screening of "King of Jazz". Just over 30 members turned up to see this famous movie screened under ideal conditions. Perhaps its that the projectors at the Mobil Centre have brighter lamps, or perhaps it's just that the Mobil theatrette is smaller than the Camberwell Centre, but the movie has never looked clearer or sharper.

As stated in earlier newsletters, we are now looking for a buyer for the film, so if you have a friend who collects 16mm movies and has around $1000 to spare, let him know about us!

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MONDAY - JUNE 4TH - MUSIC EVENING

Once again, around 30 regulars turned up for our music evening and were not disappointed by what they heard.

First speaker was Geoff Orr who has recently returned from the USA. Whilst overseas, Geoff was able to spend some time with the famous American singer and band leader of the 1920's and 30's, Smith Ballew. (Add 'movie actor' to that list too. Sorry Geoff.) Geoff played several extracts from interviews he taped with Smith in which the singer recounted some anecdotes about the early Bing. (They knew each other in the 30's.)

Following Geoff came Jim McManus who entertained us with several items featuring Bing and Peggy Lee. Jim, as you may know, is a great Peggy Lee fan. Several extracts from radio shows were played as well as a couple of Bing and Peggy's commercial issues.

Next came Thelma Wood and presented her infamous music quiz in which the introductions to a number of well known (?) Crosby songs were played, with us "collectors" having to supply the titles. Keith Hyde was the member who correctly named the most songs and was rewarded with

a copy of the Tacoma meeting souvenir disc.

Finally, courtesy of member Kevin Sheather, we were treated to several slections from the newly-released (in the UK) LP "Songs of a lifetime" featuring Bing's radio tracks from the 1950's with the Buddy Cole Trio plus 1979 orchestrations added on. Yours truly played tapes of the original tracks as they were actually heard on radio in the 50's and the comparison made interesting listening.

During the course of the evening, the raffle for the 3 LP set "Bing reads Tom Sawyer" was drawn - the winner being Jim McManus.

MONDAY JULY 16TH - FILM EVENING

This was one of the most successful functions that we held for a long time. More than 70 people attended the screening of "We're Not Dressing" plus the classic WC Fields short film "The Dentist" - all agreed that it was a great evening.

The remainder of the Tacoma discs were put on sale and quickly snapped up as were copies of the newly-released Crosby/Sinatra LP

In addition, we raffled a double pass for the September Dinner Dance at $1 a ticket, the winner being Ken Orren, who fortuitiously, had celebrated his 51st birthday just the day before!

Wally, the Mobil Centre's projectionist,performed a stirling job as usual. We really are lucky to have this venue and although Mobil have never even hinted that they would like anything in return for the service and facilities that they provide, I for one show my appreciation by using Mobil petrol and products.

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DON'T FORGET - BOOK FOR THE DINNER DANCE NOW.

Bing / Rhythm Boy Rinker to be tribute guest

Al Rinker, one of the original Rhythm Boys along with the late Bing Crosby, will be guest of honor at a tribute to Crosby scheduled to start at 1 p.m. Saturday at Aquinas Academy.

The event, sponsored by the Bing Crosby Historical Society, includes a banquet at 6:30 p.m.

The Tacoma-born Crosby died Oct. 14, 1977, at age 74.

In a letter to the society president, Ken Twiss, Rinker told of his relationship with Crosby. Rinker said he started a band in high school in Spokane and needed a drummer. He heard about a guy named Bing Crosby who played drums, and asked him to rehearse with the band.

"Crosby really had a beat," Rinker wrote, "but he also could sing."

Later, the band broke up and Rinker and Crosby started a duo act. They decided to go to Los Angeles to see Rinker's sister, Mildred Bailey. They drove there in a 1916 Model T Ford with no top.

Rinker said his sister lined up an audition that launched them on the Fanchon and Marco circuit.

Paul Whiteman heard them and asked them to join his band. And that was the beginning that led to the formation of the Rhythm Boys.

And then Crosby went out on his own and rose to stardom, Rinker said.

Rinker will be on hand to answer questions at the tribute, according to Crosby-buff Twiss. Twiss has donated numerous Crosby memorabilia to the Tacoma Public Library.

A Tribute label record has been pressed for the occasion of previously rare songs sung by Crosby. It will be available only at the event.

The late Bing Crosby

A donation of $25 will cover the day's activities, but a separate donation must be made for the record.

Besides the banquet, other scheduled events include:

- Speeches by persons who knew Crosby.
- Rinker conducting a sing-a-long while playing the piano.
- Showing of Mack Sennett comedy short films featuring Bing Crosby.
- The showing of the Crosby movie, "Going Hollywood."

Any money realized from the tribute, Twiss said, will be used to further the goals of the Bing Crosby Historical Society, including establishing an international Bing Crosby festival and awarding scholarships to music students.

A TRIBUTE TO BING IN TACOMA, U.S.A.

(Following are extracts from a newsletter received from Ken Twiss of the Bing Crosby Historical Society.)

The "Tribute to Bing in Tacoma" was a great success. It brought the BCHS the attention that is needed to create a permanent, active memorial to Bing Crosby, in Tacoma, the city of his birth.

Outof town guests began to arrive Friday evening , May 4th, and following dinner, met for a showing of "We're Not Dressing". In spite of blustery weather, the guests enjoyed this seldom seen movie. A special "Bing Crosby" decorated cake and coffee were served.

The following afternoon, guests gathered about noon at Aquinas Academy. Displays of snapshots of Bing's parents Various homes and other places of interest were there. Copies of documents and letters were also to be seen including letters from Buckingham Palace and Kathryn Crosby.

After a welcome by M.C. Bill Osborn, the afternoon movies were shown. Besides two Mack Sennett shorts and one of Joe Venuti, the 1938 feature "Sing you Sinners" was shown.

After a two hour break, the hall was transformed into a banquet room with long white tables dressed in white linens with floral centerpieces of golden chrysanthemums and roses and blue irises.

Over 100 fans attended the banquet and evening entertainment, many from out of state. This latter group were named "National honorary advisory committee members" and this list will be kept in the permanent file of the BCHS.

The evening program opened with a welcome by Priscilla Koernig and Ken Twiss. This was followed by a talk by Herb Bootman. Then Bill Osborn read messages from around the world including a telegram from Bob Machliss of the Victorian Bing Crosby Society in Australia.

John Salisbury of Radio KXL in Portland, Oregon, then spoke about his recording sessions with Bing. He played a taped message by DonaldO'Connor recorded especially for this Tribute. The emotional high-point of this part of the programme came with Mr Salisbury's excellent tape of songs made famous by Bing. By the time we heard "True Love" there were few dry eyes.

Our very special guest, Al Rinker, then delighted the audience with his reminiscences of the early days of the Rhythm Boys and the Paul Whiteman Orchestra. Accompanying himself on the piano, Mr Rinker lead the assembly in "Pennies from Heaven", "Blue of the Night" and "White Christmas". Mr Rinker then asked for questions from the audience, and his answers cleared up several things people were unsure about, concerning Bing's start in show business. At the conclusion of his talk, a standing ovation gave evidence of the genuine affection and appreciation he inspired.

After leaving the speaker's table, Mr Rinker signed autographs and posed for pictures. He was delighted, saying that he had not experienced such a reception in years.

The conclusion of the tribute was the showing of the 1931 film short "Blue of the night" followed by the evening's feature film "Going Hollywood". Bing's strong clear voice was never better demonstrated in this fine old film.

And so our tribute ended, and everyone could take home memories of new friends, old friends and loving remembrance of Bing. A lot of interest was generated here on May 5th. This is sure to make next year's event here a meeting of international importance.

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND NEXT YEAR'S TRIBUTE? IT'S NOT AS IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SOUNDS. AN ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE THROUGH THE NATIONAL BANK TRAVEL DEPARTMENT TO ORGANIZE A GROUP TOUR TO THE USA IN MAY OF NEXT YEAR. NO DETAILS YET, BUT WHY NOT LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Three more unusual labels. The one on the left is the flip side of 'Gigi', withdrawn shortly after issue and replaced with 'Chicago'. Incidentally, the song shown is one of Cole Porter's very last.

Right we have another rare Australian issue. An EP release from the late 60's, and limited to 1500 pressings.

Left we have an example of a film publicity disc from the 1940's. It features Bing's actual soundtrack recording of the song.

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews

FIRST FOLD HERE. AN CEUD FHILLEADH A

Sender's name and address (please show postcode)
Ainm agus seoladh an sgrìobhaiche (cleachd còd a'phuist)

Last newsletter, we mentioned a special aerogramme issued in the U.K. Here's what the first 2 folds look like.

An air letter should not contain any enclosure; if it does, it may be surcharged or sent by ordinary mail.
Ma bhios rud an taobh a stigh de'n litir seo, àrdaichear cis a'phuist, air neo cuirear troimh'n ghnàth-phost i.

Drawings by Willie Rodger, Kirkintilloch
Designed by Ruari McLean Associates Ltd, Dollar
Printed for the British Post Office by
McCorquodale Printers Ltd

TACOMA TRIBUTE - PHOTO'S AND TAPES FOR SALE.

PHOTOS: Photos taken at the tribute on May 5th includes pictures of speakers and guests. Set of 10 (8 x 10) - US$15.50. Set of 10 (3½" x 5") - US$3.00. (Both prices include postage - address below.)

TAPES: Now available - a two hour portion of the Tribute ceremonies. Reel-to-reel - US$6.00, Cassette - US$10.00 (yes, cassette is dearer).

For the tapes, overseas postage may be higher. Write first, perhaps, to: RADIO RE-RUNS, PO Box 82, Redmond, Washington, 98052. USA. (In case there is any confusion relating to addresses, send to this address for the tapes ONLY. For the photos,read on.)

JOIN THE BING CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The BCHS is now open to membership. Members will receive a quarterly newsletter featuring news from around the world of interest to Bing fans. Membership for the rest of 1979 will be free with the payment of $10.00 fees for 1980 now. Each new member will be entitled to purchase two of the special "Tribute" discs until the supply is gone. US$6 for one, US $11.25 for two. Includes postage. (Better check that any copies remain before sending any money. BM)

Address all enquiries to:
The Bing Crosby Historical Society, PO Box 8013,
Tacoma, Washington, 98408, USA.

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LETTER - Ken Twiss

"Members joining the Historical Society by Oct.14th will automatically become a member of a special "Founders Club".
I've just heard that Al Rinker is in intensive care after a heart attack. He would probably enjoy hearing from down under. (A card has already been sent in the Society's name. BM). Write to St Joseph Medical Center, Buna Vista & Alameda Sts, Burbank, California, 91505,USA.

THE CROSBY/SINATRA LP - AVAILABLE AT LAST - NOW!

The long awaited LP from the Sinatra Society has finally become available. And it was well worth the wait!

The disc features two complete Bing Crosby General Electric radio shows from March 21 and March 28, 1954. Guest is Frank Sinatra on both occasions and the sound quality and overall presentation of the disc are excellent. To the credit of the Sinatra Society, they have given Bing Visual coverage on both front and back covers to the exclusion of Frank. I believe that they tried to find a suitable photograph of both singers for the front but without success.

HURRY - ORDER YOUR COPY NOW.

Although several hundred copies of the disc were pressed, they are literally "walking off the shelf". We have disposed of over 50 copies to members who ordered them in advance and still have another 50 in stock. However, these will probably go pretty quickly, and after they are gone - well, it all depends on how many the Sinatra Society have left.

Cost of the disc is Au$7.00, post and packing if required, an extra $1.50.

Overseas members - post and packing prices on app.

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ALSO FOR SALE - COLLECTOR'S ITEMS CASSETTES

The two new Collector's items cassettes listed in the last newsletter have proved so popular that we have decided to sell copies as well. The cost per cassette (high-quality Maxell tape) will be Au$5.00 each. Post and packing in Australia will be an extra dollar.

PREFER TO BORROW THE TAPES? Please remember that you must specifically list the Collector's Items cassettes on your application form. It's not enough to say "please let me have one when they become available".

The Herald, Fri., May 25, 1979

Nothing to groan about in Bing sales

Bing Crosby and Elvis Presley are still rivals on disc — although both died within three months of each other, in 1977.

From a special writer in London

At a time when it is announced that the West End musical "Elvis" will end next month, the latest posthumous record album "Memories of Elvis" is being out-sold by the Old Groaner's "Songs of a Lifetime," a double album priced $13.

It is at number 29 in the charts. Elvis's disc, released last month, too, is not in at all.

The latest Elvis album (another is planned for release next month) is simply remixed old tracks, with Elvis's voice featured more prominently than on the original recordings.

Rather more artistry has gone into the latest Crosby recordings of the Fifties, like "Unchained Melody," and "Try a Little Tenderness" and augmented and updated them with big orchestral backing.

It was quite a feat of sound engineering produced by Jim Barnes.

Barnes, 45, from Redcar, Yorks, has long been giving his special backing to the Crosby voice. They had a close and happy association. He also recorded Crosby duets with Fred Astaire, and worked with Slim Whitman. Connie Francis and Jack Jones.

Barnes, who lives with his wife Anne at Benfleet, Essex, began in music as a drummer and singer. He went into record production 15 years ago, starting with singer Linda Saxon, and progressing to his first hit album, Roy Castle's "Songs For A Rainy Day."

Through introductions during trips to the U.S., he found the Hollywood stars appreciated his approach. He was astonished at the number of famous names who wanted him to record them.

Barnes says: "In terms of marketing today, it is a fallacy that selling to young people is the only thing to do. People in the 25-55 age bracket account for a big slice of sales figures. They are the ones who buy albums, a more profitable region than singles.

"Chart positions are not necessarily a barometer although my Whitman album "Red River Valley" was No. 1 for five weeks in 1977, the ultimate sales figures were lower than the last one I recorded with Crosby, called 'Seasons'.

"Crosby record sales alone last year were well over the two million mark."

NEW RECORDS

* The exciting news this month is that "Songs of a Lifetime" will probably be issued here any day now. Apparantly, the disc wasn't originally scheduled to be released in Australia, but due to its outstanding UK sales, that decision was changed. UK label was Philips. I imagine that that will hold for Australia too.

It's a great record as I can vouch for, thanks to Kevin Sheather's tape. Don't miss it.

* You may remember that in the last newsletter, I mentioned that import copies of Bing's 3 singalong LP's had been seen in town. Well, now I'm happy to say that at least two (and probably three) have been issued here on the AXIS label. Vol 1 carries the number 6383 and Vol 2, 6384. Worth having if you like singalong type records.

* Bing With a Beat has been reissued as a separate issue on RCA, locally. Rather boring cover - just the title up big on a coloured background, but at least all the tracks are there. RCA Val 10185.

JAPANESE ISSUES

In the last issue, I asked anyone who was interested in obtaining Crosby discs on Japanese labels to let me know as a friend of mine was considering importing copies. Thank you to all those who wrote, but I must stress that at that time, (and still), it was and is an idea only, To all those who have written, thank you. You requests have been noted. When and if the idea comes to fruition, you will be notified in plenty of time.

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ODD SPOT - Did anyone watch 'Weekend Magazine' on Channel 2 on Sunday July 8th? They ran a feature on the history of Melbourne's trams and to back up silent footage from the 1920's, used the musical portion of Bing's Paul Whiteman recording of "Makin' Whoopie" and the complete recording of "I'll Get By" with the Ipana Troubadors. I wonder how many non-collectors knew Bing?!

NEW MEMBERS

Several new members have joined the ranks since our last newsletter including a few overseas. Let's give a welcome to:

Jean Manning, 10 Chislehurst Rd, Hampton 3188. (206)
Shirley Naylor, 8 Buna St, Orange, NSW 2800 (207)
Shirley Smith, Callington, South Australia 5254 (208)
Roger J Hackett, 4232 Herkimer Place, Bronx, NY, 10470 USA. (209)
Ronald Haymes, 32 Walker Road, Mt Waverley, 3149. (210)
Francis Smith, Civil Court of the City of New York, 111 Centre St, New York, NY, USA 10013 (211)
Jonathan Russell, 137 Midfield Way, Orpington, Kent, England BR5 2QL (212)
Raymond Soltan, 5 Terry St, Heidelberg West 3081 (213)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW???

In recent times, some members have moved house without letting us know their new address! It's pointless to continue sending them newsletters, only to have them returned by the local post office. If you know their whereabouts, please let us know. Specifically:

Elizabeth Spratt
Ludwig Marts
Michael Quinton

Don't forget, if you shift, don't forget to drop us a line telling your new address!

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MEMBERSHIP FEES

In late August, you will be receiving a request for membership fees. If you'll remember, last year, we brought all membership fees into line by asking you to pay up to August, no matter when you joined. So this year, you'll be asked to pay a full year's fees. PLEASE, if you don't intend to renew, LET US KNOW. It costs us a lot to send out reminder notices.

LETTERS

From Lennie & Ray Holmes, Essendon.

Thanks for the newsletters, which are always read with interest. Pressure of work has unfortunately prevented us from attending so many of your functions, but we still hope to get around to them one day. We wondered whether you would be kind enough to pass on details contained in the enclosed poster as we feel that many of your members will have fond recollections of Nancy Lee and Nicky on radio. (Glad to, Len. BM)

BEING A CHUM WAS FUN
The story of Nicky and Nancy Lee by Nancy Lee.

A new book. Forward by Graham Kennedy.

Advance purchase of the book will ensure your reserved seat(+ your copy autographed by Nancy Lee) at the re-union and get-together of chums and friends at The Camberwell Civic Centre, 340 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, Sunday Sept. 9th at 2pm. A new Nicky and Nancy Lee song and joke book is being prepared for the occasion. Cost of the book: Soft Cover: $6.95, Hard Cover: $12.20. (That's Nancy Lee's book, of course)

For more details, please write to Nancy Lee, c/o Listen and Learn Productions, 2 Yaralla Crt, Keysborough, 3173. Or ring: 798 5384, 211 7561 or 527 7099.

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OTHER SOCIETIES OF INTEREST

The International Crosby Circle, c/- Reg Bristo, 7 Greenmeadow Close, Cwmbran, Gwent, NP4 3NR U.K.

Bing Pictorial, c/- Frank Murphy, 32 Ferndale Ave, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE 28, 7NE UK.

Club Crosby, c/- Pat Sullivan, 1301 Sheridan Ave, Apt 96 Chico, California 95926, USA.

The Sinatra Society of Aust. PO Box 123, Clayton 3168.

FROM OUT OF THE PAST - PHOTOPLAY - NOVEMBER 1932

"I SURRENDER DEAR" by Lois Shirley (Pt. 1)

It's almost time. The hour hand points to seven. The minute hand is creeping slowly but surely, slowly but surely. There is an air of hushed expectancy in the house. A hush. A tenseness. Dad looks up suddenly from his tapioca pudding to discover the table deserted. He sits alone. He and his shadow and his little dish of tapioca. Startled, he glances quickly around. Over the top of his glasses. Yes, there they are. Ma and the three girls and Mrs Watkins from next door, who hasn't a radio. Sitting still and tense and quiet.

Now it's seven. The clock in the hall strikes the hour. A few mumbled words. Twenty. Count them. No more. No less. And then. A voice. A whistle. Something about the "Blue ovver eyes" and the "gold ovver hair". Then dad. "Good heavens, is that Crosby guy on the air again?"

It is. It's Bing.
And "We Surrender Dear".

Bing's mother didn't raise her boy to be a crooner. When little Harry Crosby (nicknamed "Bingo" by the neighbourhood kids, and later shortened to "Bing") went galloping on a broomstick up in Spokane, Washington, there were no crooners. Only bogey-mans. And mamas would have thought that any "bogey-mans" living, sane and sensible compared with a grown man who stood nighly before a little round black thing, and, with no-one near and for no reason that anyone could see with the naked eye, made funny noises about "surrendering dear". It didn't make sense.

But learning to be a lawyer, there was some sense to that, they thought. So the Crosbys sent "Bing" off to Gonzaga College to be one. The kind that stood before judges and argued like anything.

But dear me, they should have known. When Bing would walk out on any habeas corpus proceedings to practice on the

trap drums, they should have known. They should have been warned. And they were. So the Crosbys have been prepared for anything that followed. And it did follow. Bing organized a seven-piece orchestra and began playing for all the college dances. Having sung in the college glee club, he saw no reason why he shouldn't go on singing with his orchestra. And he did. So you see, from innocent little acts like that, even great crooners are born.

A local theatre manager saw Bing and his boys and booked them for a vaudeville tour. And all thoughts of law were forgotten forever. Bing was on his way.

Whiteman (Paul the Great) heard Bing and his friend Al Rinker sing in Los Angeles, and lo and behold, with the addition of Harry Barris to the duet, the famous "Rhythm Boys" came into being. And went rhythming about the country with Paul and his band.

But when Whiteman came to Hollywood to make "King of Jazz", Bing liked Hollywood so well that he stayed behind and tortured a microphone nightly at the Cocoanut Grove. The fellow who could leap-frog over three notes to a note that wasn't in the song in the first place, that could slur three little notes together that hadn't even been on speaking terms before, that could stop in the middle of a word, gulp twice and catch up two lines later, was growing famous. He made redords that begged sobbingly in many a famous star's dressing room and many a family living-room for "Just One More Chance".

He made movies for Mack Sennett that always ended by Bing proving he was really Bing by slowly fading out of the picture chirping about the "blue ovver eyes" (whistle whistle whistle) and "I surrender (gulp twice) dear".

And so he came to the Columbia Broadcasting and to the Columbia Broadcasting and to thousands of homes. A famous crooner. Or singer. Or whatsoever he may be.

And the feminine world thrilled and quivered and wondered at the romantic idol whose husky voice promises so much "when the blue (whistle) ovthenight, meets (gulp) the gold ovtheday, da dum doodee doo".

While behind the cold little microphone stands a stocky blue-eyed boy of 28 who has to watch his diet and isn't concerned about his too-large ears. Who must remember to tell his wife about that early rehersal and, gosh, do these shoes hurt his feet, and at the same time advise a thousand palpatating hearts to "Wrap their troubles in dreams, and dream their troubles away", or however it goes. And him with his feet hurting and all.

The life of a radio singer-movie star, record-maker, stage star, is anything but a song. It's a foot race, a trapeze act and endurance contest all in one.

For instance, Bing is up at seven. At eight he's ready for the day's work. Songs are to be gone over and tried out. Publishers submit a number of songs for his approval. Not being able to read a single note or play chop sticks, even on the piano, he has an accompanist who plays all the tunes submitted over and over and over, while Bing listens. If one takes his fancy, they read over the words. The words play an important part, he thinks.

"Wouldn't I get the razz if I began chirping about 'honey bunchy' or 'ducky wucky'?" he asks. So if there are no "ducky wuckys" in the tune they like, it's held for further consideration. In this way they choose about three numbers. A sentimental ballad, a hot song and a lively ballad. With these they "fool around" as Bing says, and get the feel of them. He never has any set way of singing a song. One day he may sing it, "Wrap your troubles in do dum dee day and do dum ee day them away" or for a big surprise for mama and the girls the very next night he may suggest that they "Wrap their do dum ee days in dreams and dream their do dums away". And that,he thinks is exactly what keeps up the excitement. A body never knows from one night to the next just where he will be "do dumming" or why. The songs that get the biggest reaction are those they repeat. And that's how simple it is.

(TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE)

And that's where we'll leave this issue for now. Do dum ee.

Bob Mochel